



HAROLD C. BROWN, JR.
121st Assembly District

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January 25, 2002

Renata Hesse, Esq.
Antitrust Division
United States Department of Justice
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse:

I write in support of the proposed settlement in the anti-trust action involving the U.S. Department of Justice and Microsoft Corporation.

I believe strongly that the time has come for an end to the litigation of this matter, which has cost U.S. taxpayers upwards of \$30 million to date. A negotiated settlement appears to be in everyone's interest. The settlement agreed to by the Justice Department and Microsoft, as well as numerous state attorneys general, presents an opportunity to remove this debate from our nation's courtrooms and place it squarely back in the hands of consumers via the marketplace, the most appropriate vehicle, in my opinion, for resolution of the issues involved.

The technology marketplace is a highly competitive one, to be sure. I am among those who have always believed that competition is a positive and lasting characteristic of our nation's economic framework. Those industry competitors who are aggressively opposing settlement of this case are asking the U.S. government to move beyond its role as enforcers of federal anti-trust laws, in my opinion, setting a new standard of government intervention in what should be market-driven forces.

The time has come for a settlement of these issues, and I urge the Department of Justice to move expeditiously toward that end.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hal Brown".

HAROLD C. BROWN, JR.
Chairman
Assembly Republican Conference